(b) Pakistan's Ministry of Water and Power and China's Three Gorges Project Corporation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on August 23, 2009 for construction of the 7100 MW Bunji hydroelectric project on river Indus near Gilgit in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK) during the visit of President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari to China in August, 2009.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Government of India protested on September 11, 2009 to the Government of Pakistan regarding the so-called "Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order-2009". Pakistan has for the past six decades denied the basic rights to the people in those parts of the state of Jammu and Kashmir under its illegal occupation. The entire state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. The so-called "Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order-2009" is yet another cosmetic exercise intended to camouflage Pakistan's illegal occupation.

Dam on Brahmaputra by China

784. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Remote Sensing Agency has tracked construction of a dam by China at Brahmaputra river in the Eastern Tibet Region;

(b) whether it is also a fact that previously Government had raised this issue with China;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Chinese Government has previously denied such construction; and

(d) whether Government has recently raised the issue with China under existing bilateral agreements and multilateral treaties on river water sharing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Government has seen media reports to such effect. These reports have been taken up with the Chinese side, who have said that such reports are inconsistent with the facts. Government is not aware of any existing dam on the Brahmaputra River. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's interests and takes all necessary measures to protect them. Government takes up all relevant issues relating to trans-border rivers with the Chinese side through the Expert Level Mechanism established in 2006.

Resolution passed by OIC

785. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is cognizant of the recent resolution passed by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC);

(b) whether it is a fact that the resolution reflects an organisations's stand on Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has taken up the issue with the OIC and its members bilaterally; and

(e) if so, the details of the responses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The Hon'ble member is probably referring to the recent resolution passed by OIC in their Final Communique of the Annual Coordination Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the OIC Member States held in New York on September 25, 2009 on the sidelines of 64th session of UN General Assembly. It reflects their overtly one sided and India-adverse position on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

(d) and (e) Yes. The matter is invariably raised at bilateral level and in meetings with group of OIC member States.

The Government of India has issued a strong rebuttal in response to the OIC resolution stating that "It is regrettable that the OIC has commented on India's internal affairs. We condemn and reject this. Inherent in OIC's statements and actions on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir is a complete inability to understand India's position. Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and it is our firm position that the OIC has no locus standi in matters concerning India's internal affairs."

Indians attacked in Australia

†786. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians attacked in Australia during the last year and the number of persons who died or injured in such incidents;

(b) the number of people arrested in this regard and the number of people against whom action has been taken;

(c) whether despite the assurance from Government of Australia attacks are still going on; and

(d) the substantial arrangement made for the security of the migrants and students studying in Australia?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.